

# DAILY REVIEW OF THE ARABIC PRESS



State Dept. review completed

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EMBASSY OF THE U.S.A., CAIRO-EGYPT.

STAT

MORNING PAPERS.

THURSDAY October 21st, 1948.

Arab Affairs.  
Resignation of Lebanese Minister  
of Defence.

Lebanese Minister of Defence, Adel Arslan, has resigned his Cabinet post in protest against the Arab countries failing to give military aid to the Egyptian army in its present fight with the Zionist forces, reports the Arabic press.

The story is given wide publicity, and the two most important dailies in Egypt, Al Misri and Al Ahram comment unfavourably on Arab delay in extending military aid to Egypt.

Al Misri writes: "We salute Emir Adel Arslan for his noble attitude, but we must put on record the fact that Arab solidarity has been and still is the main factor in the relations among the Arab countries.

"The Egyptian army is now fighting the treacherous Jews and it was expected of all the Arab armies to rise as one man and destroy the Zionists. We expected this of the Arab countries and no doubt it would please the Egyptians to see such solidarity existing for it would have pleasing and practical results".

Al Ahram's comment is more bitter. It says: "Al Emir Arslan has submitted his resignation from the Lebanese government in protest against the Arab countries leaving Egypt to face Zionist aggression alone. The Arab countries entered Palestine on May 15th to save it, and it was therefore expected of those Arab countries to remain united and to rise as one man against Zionist aggression. But the Zionists violated the truce a week ago and Egypt is left to bear the brunt of the attack alone. What will the position of the Arab countries be if they do not unite quickly in offsetting the Jewish plan and engaging the Jews on all fronts?

"The enemy has massed his troops and arms in Neger and Southern Palestine which is the most important front in the Palestinian war. The valiant Egyptian army stands alone in defending this zone although it is the duty of all the Arab countries to share in its defence.

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"By engaging the Jews on other fronts, the Arab countries will have dealt a deadly blow to the Jews who would be forced to withdraw some of their forces from Southern Palestine. This means that the Jews must be forced to fight on several fronts in order to annihilate them".

Arab delay in aiding Egypt  
embarrasses Arab delegations to U.N.O.

Al Misri's Paris correspondent reports that the Arab delegations at the United Nations are embarrassed by the failure of the Arab countries to take part in the recent Egyptian-Zionist clash. "Riad Al Solh Bey, the Lebanese Prime Minister, held a meeting at Paris on October 19th to discuss with the Arab delegations the reason for the cold shoulder given to Egypt by her Arab sisters", says the correspondent.

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America in the Arabic press.

Al Misri's Washington correspondent reports that a well-known American newspaperman, Mr Russell Barnes, has published his memoirs concerning his adventures in North Africa during the war, in which he recorded a story concerning this Embassy. He said that in 1943 when Montgomery chased Rommel out of the Western desert a certain American photographer by the name of Selim Aronz showed him some war trophies among which was a green book. Barnes suspected that the book contained the State Department code and so he took it to H.E. Mr. Kirk who in turn gave it to Mr Ray Haro, then chief of the Political Section of this Embassy, for investigations. Mr Haro discovered that the book did contain the State Department code, and so His Excellency reported the matter to Mr Roosevelt who ordered that from then onwards only the U.S. Navy code should be used by the State Department.

Al Ahram's Paris correspondent quotes a French paper called Le Populaire as saying that Congressman Emanuel Celler had accused the U.S. State Department and the British Foreign Office of sending Mr Robert McClintock and Sir John Trotbeck respectively to Rhodes to inform the late Count Bernadotte that the U.S.A. and Britain would not approve his recommendations unless Negov was given to the Arabs.

Al Ahram's correspondent then goes on to say that Celler's story is untrue, for according to a well informed official of the U.N. Secretariat and to a spokesman of the British Foreign Office, the two gentlemen called on Bernadotte for the sole purpose of discussing with him the Refugees question. Besides, Count Bernadotte had already submitted his recommendations to the U.N. before the gentlemen called on him at Rhodes.

Al Assas and Al Misri report that H.E. Mr Stanton Griffis has made a statement during his visit to Beirut in which he said that the U.S.A. had failed in carrying the responsibilities which were put on her shoulders with regard to the Arab refugees.

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The U.N. under fire.  
"The Security Council is useless",  
says Al Assas.

Al Assas, and Al Misri print strong editorials about the latest Palestine decision taken by the Security Council.

Al Assas' article is headlined: "The iron fist will earn us the respect of the world". The writer says: "The Palestinian case can be settled only by the sword. The Security Council passed a unanimous resolution for the first time in its history ordering Arabs and Jews to cease fire. One would think that the whole world will come to an end if the Palestinian war does not end. The Berlin crisis in the eyes of the Security Council is not as important as the Palestinian war.

"The Security Council is well aware of the fact that it was the Jews who violated the truce. Dr. Duncho made this quite clear to the Council, yet the Security Council did not even so much as censure the Jews. This international organisation is indeed useless".-----

Al Misri headlines its editorial: "A decision which demonstrates failure". The article is similar in meaning to that of Al Assas.

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Jewish money sequestered by  
Egyptian authorities.

Al Assas publishes the text of a military proclamation issued by Nokrashi Pasha in which he orders the sequestration of the property of six prominent Jews in Egypt as well as six companies presumably controlled by Jews. The Jewish gentlemen are: Yussuf Homsy; the brothers Victor, Saad, Mayor, and Gaston Levy; and Edward Salomon Levy.

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Al Mussawar publishes the views  
of different writers.

Al Mussawar, the important pictorial weekly, publishes an article by its editor-in-chief Fikry Abaza Bey who is known for his ambiguous articles and poor style. The gentleman's article is headlined "Democracy is not in danger", and its object is to impress on the reader that Egypt should remain neutral if a third world war breaks out.

The writer says that some Egyptians hold the wrong view that Egypt should fight on the side of Britain and America in order to save democracy.

"But democracy is not in danger", argues Abaza Bey. "Three years ago England and America were full of praise for Russian democracy. Russia of to-day is the same as Russia

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of three years past. Its regime has not changed. Stalin is still in control. What happened then to make democracy in danger?".

The allies want to combat communism really. It is absurd to say that they wish to defend democracy. But Communism cannot be fought in the battlefield. War is the best ally of communism. Should war break out and Russia is defeated, Communism will spread just the same, says the writer who concludes the article with the rather confusing phrase: "Will the coming war be fought to combat communism or to aid capitalism and imperialism? By Allah the answer is clear. Democracy is not in danger... that is if there are such things as democracies".

Sidky Pasha's opinion.

Ismail Sidky Pasha, Egypt's famous statesman and twice Prime Minister made a statement to Al Mussawar in which he said that Egypt could not escape from the coming war. The 1936 treaty is valid, and under the provisions of this treaty Egypt is pledged to aid Britain in time of war. Moreover, the British have troops and warplanes in Egypt and they will use Egypt as a war base whether Egypt likes it or not.

A temporary agreement to  
replace the 1936 treaty?.

Al Mussawar alleges that there are secret talks between Egypt and Britain at present with a view to concluding a temporary agreement between the two countries to replace the Anglo-Egyptian treaty of the year 1936.

The temporary "agreement" will have the same provisions as those of the 1936 treaty except that it will have three new clauses to the effect that:

- 1 - It will be valid only so long as the world situation is critical and that when the world situation becomes normal again both parties will ask the Security Council to fix the date on which the British should evacuate Egyptian territory.
- 2 - The Khashaba-Campbell Sudan agreement which did not see light should be put into effect. Under this agreement Egypt should be given a full share in the administration of the Sudan.
- 3 - America would be persuaded to allow Egypt to enter within the "dollar sphere" and benefit from the Marshall plan.

The weekly refrains from commenting on the story and merely asks the Egyptian government if the story is true.

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Syria and Lebanon take special  
measures against their Jewish nationals.

Al Misri's Beirut correspondent reports that Lebanon and Syria have concluded the following agreement which will

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be put into effect on November 1st, 1948.

- 1 - The Syrian Jews residing in Lebanon will be ordered to return to Syria. Lebanese Jews residing in Syria will be sent back to Lebanon.
- 2 - Syrian and Lebanese Jews residing abroad will be ordered to return to their countries.
- 3 - The Syrians and Lebanese will be prevented from marrying Jewesses. Syrian and Lebanese Government officials already married to Jewesses will be dismissed from their jobs.
- 4 - Passports already held by Syrian and Lebanese Jews will be taken from them.

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Partition of the Sudan?

Al Misri's Khartoum correspondent alleges that it is rumoured that the British plan to partition the Sudan, so that Northern and Eastern Sudan go to Egypt, Central Sudan becomes independent, and Southern Sudan is joined to Uganda.

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